

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 656

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Defense, and the Congress should take immediate action to implement the recommendations of the President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors, and other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 17, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Defense, and the Congress should take immediate action to implement the recommendations of the President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors, and other purposes.

Whereas the President, by Executive Order 13426, dated March 6, 2007, established a Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors;

Whereas the President authorizes the Commission to complete a comprehensive review of the care provided to

members of the Armed Forces returning from the Global War on Terror from the time they leave the battlefield through their return to civilian life;

Whereas the mission of the Commission includes—

(1) examining the transition of returning wounded members of the Armed Forces from the Global War on Terror to their successful return to productive military service or civilian society, and recommending needed improvements;

(2) evaluating the coordination, management, and adequacy of the delivery of health care, disability, traumatic injury, education, employment, and other benefits and services to such service members by Federal agencies and by the private sector, and recommending needed improvements to ensure that programs provide high-quality services;

(3) analyzing the effectiveness of existing outreach to such service members regarding such benefits and services, evaluating service members' awareness of and their ability to access these benefits and services, and identifying ways to reduce barriers to and gaps in these benefits and services; and

(4) consulting with foundations, veterans service organizations, nonprofit groups, faith-based organizations, and other entities, as appropriate;

Whereas over the course of 4½ months, the Commission carried out its mission and responsibilities as directed in the President's Executive order;

Whereas the Commission visited Department of Defense facilities, Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals, and other care sites across the United States;

Whereas the Commission took testimony from injured members of the Armed Forces, their families, professionals who provide medical and rehabilitative services, and administrators of programs serving such service members, among others;

Whereas following the Commission's investigation into the care provided to America's returning wounded warriors, the Commission briefed the President on July 25, 2007;

Whereas on July 31, 2007, the Commission transmitted its final report to the President, the Congress, the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and veterans service organizations; and

Whereas the Commission recommended six action steps and recommended that the Congress, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs immediately implement those steps: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, that—

2 (1) the House of Representatives expresses
3 its—

4 (A) appreciation and support for the work
5 of the President's Commission on Care for
6 America's Returning Wounded Warriors; and

7 (B) deep appreciation for the continued
8 sacrifice of United States service members and
9 their families;

10 (2) the House of Representatives reiterates its
11 commitment to meeting the present and future

1 needs of United States service members and their
2 families; and

3 (3) it is the sense of the House of Representa-
4 tives that—

5 (A) the Congress should take immediate
6 action to implement the Commission's rec-
7 ommendations for which Federal legislation is
8 required;

9 (B) the Secretary of Defense should take
10 immediate action to implement the Commis-
11 sion's recommendations that require action by
12 the Department of Defense;

13 (C) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
14 should take immediate action to implement the
15 Commission's recommendations that require ac-
16 tion by the Department of Veterans Affairs;
17 and

18 (D) the Congress, the Secretary of De-
19 fense, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
20 should continue working together to ensure the
21 proper continuum of care for returning wound-
22 ed members of the Armed Forces and their
23 families.

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